

## *District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers*



**Bahia Mar** – You may have heard about the lengthy public hearing we held on the Bahia Mar proposal, during the regular Commission Meeting on Feb. 2. After more than eight hours of testimony and public comments, the Commission asked the developer to go back to the drawing board and prepare a more acceptable plan. Thanks to everyone who commented.

Those opposed to the plan cited the potential for increased traffic on A1A, SE 17 Street, and East Las Olas; the incompatibility of the two, proposed 39-story condo towers with the surrounding community; and shade on the beach, among other issues. There is general agreement that the property needs renovating, and plans must provide a permanent home for the Boat Show, as well as public promenades, waterfront amenities, and plenty of green and open spaces.

And we asked the City Manager to get an appraisal for the site, which the developers want to lease for 100 years. As I've stated publicly, I can't measure the value of the property without the appraisal; I need to know the value of the property with no lease, with the lease, and with the new lease. This will help me assess what is a fair deal for the City. To access the video of the Feb. 2, 2016 Commission Meeting, please log on to [http://fortlauderdale.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=527](http://fortlauderdale.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=527). (The Bahia Mar agenda item begins at 1 hour and 41 minutes after the start of the meeting.)

**Adopt-A-Street** – Kudos to Tarpon River for holding its first Adopt-A-Street event, during which several neighbors participated in a cleanup of SW 7 Street and SW 9 Avenue. The City's Adopt-A-Street program is a volunteer-driven cleanup campaign, which enables neighbors to take a hands-on role in making Fort Lauderdale litter free. For details, see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/city-manager-s-office/office-of-neighbor-support/adopt-a-street-program>.

- To organize a neighborhood Block Party, consult <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/city-manager-s-office/office-of-neighbor-support/block-party>.

**Vacation Rentals** – Ordinance C-15-29, regulating short-term rentals, became effective Nov. 1, 2015. See <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/sustainable-development/code-compliance/vacation-rental-registration-program>.

- If you have information that a property may be in use as an unregistered vacation rental and want the City to investigate, please send an e-mail to [VacationRental@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:VacationRental@fortlauderdale.gov) or call 954-828-5207. Thank you.

### **Staff Transitions** –

**New Assistant City Manager** – Christopher ("Chris") Lagerbloom began work as our new Assistant City Manager on Feb. 22. Chris will oversee the Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Sustainable Development, and Transportation and Mobility departments, as well as the Structural Innovation Division of the City Manager's Office. Chris comes to us from Milton, Georgia, where he served as City Manager since 2009. He can be reached at [clagerbloom@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:clagerbloom@fortlauderdale.gov) or 954-828-6174.

**New Senior Assistant City Clerk** – David Soloman, Neighbor Support Coordinator in the City Manager's Office, has been selected as Senior Assistant City Clerk, filling the recent vacancy created when Jeffrey A. Modarelli was appointed City Clerk.

### **Events** –

- **39<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterway Cleanup** – Saturday, Mar. 5, 9 AM - 1 PM. See <http://www.waterwaycleanup.org>.
- **St. Patrick's Parade & Festival** – On Saturday, Mar. 12, the Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Parade and Festival returns to the streets of Downtown, featuring fun and excitement for the entire family! This free event attracts thousands of spectators for a one-of-a-kind celebration of all things Irish. Follow us [@FTLCityNews@StPatsFtL](https://twitter.com/FTLCityNews@StPatsFtL), [@playlauderdale](https://twitter.com/playlauderdale), and <http://www.stpatsftl.com>.
- **Friday Night Sound Waves** – From Mar. 18 - Nov. 18, you can enjoy free live music every Friday night from 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub, East Las Olas and A1A. For details, see <http://fridaynightsoundwaves.com>.
- **Riverwalk Noon Tunes** – The 2016 Series runs Feb. 10 - Mar. 30 on Wednesday afternoons from Noon - 2 PM at Huizenga Plaza, 32 East Las Olas. This is a free concert series hosted by Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, in partnership with the Downtown Development Authority and the City of Fort Lauderdale.
- **54<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast** – Thursday, Mar. 31, 7:30 AM, Broward County Convention Center. For tickets, log on to <http://www.ftlpray.org>.
- **Hazardous Waste Drop-off** – Saturday, Apr. 9, 9 AM - 2 PM, Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW 9 Avenue (Powerline Road).
- **Las Olas Sunday Market** – 9 AM - 3 PM at 333 East Las Olas. The market is on Facebook, for up-to-date information.

- My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 4 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks). To schedule a meeting, contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or [mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov).
- If you would like to be on our e-mail list for news, notices, and events, please let MJ know and she will add your name.